

Message Text

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16
ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 CU-03 RSR-01 DPW-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3936
INFO: RUFNPS/USDEL JEC PARIS 2753

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11762

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS
SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP, JUNE 29

FOLLWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG JUNE 29TH,
1973 IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0652

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS
SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, JUNE 29

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MILITARY ACTIONS REPORTED IN LAST 48
HOURS WERE SCATTERED AND SMALL THROUGHOUT MOST OF MR 2 PROVINCES,
BUT IN KONTUM THEY WERE OF INCREASING INTENSITY. OF REGIONAL
TOTAL OF 28 INCIDENTS, 16 OCCURRED IN KONTUM, SIX IN BINH DINH,
TWO IN PHU YEN AND ONE EACH IN BINH THUAN, DARLAC, KHANH HOA,
AND QUANG DUC. REPORTEDLY ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS INCLUDED:
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NINE GROUND ATTACKS, NINE ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND THREE MININGS;
IN ADDITION THERE WERE SEVEN FIREFIGHTS OF UNDETERMINED ORIGIN.
CASUALTIES: VC/NVA: 24 KIA; RVNAF: EIGHT KIA, 36 WIA, AND FOUR
MISSING IN ACTION. FOUR CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND 15 WOUNDED

WHEN ENEMY SHELLED TWO HAMLETS SOUTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY ON JUNE 28.

2. IN AREA WEST OF KONTUM CITY, ARVN UNITS ADVANCED TO OUTSKIRTS OF TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE LAST WEEK, BUT SINCE THEN HAVE MET STIFFENING ENEMY RESISTANCE AND ARE PRESENTLY UNABLE TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN SPITE OF MASSIVE EMPLOYMENT OF ARTILLERY AND TACAIR STRIKES. REINFORCING UNITS TO EAST, NORTH AND SOUTH OF TRUNG NGHIA ARE ALSO BOGGED DOWN NOW BECAUSE OF TENACIOUS ENEMY DEFENSE. IN NGOK BAY AREA SEVEN KM NORTH OF TRUNG NGHIA MAJOR RVNAF SETBACK OCCURRED WHEN EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY ENEMY ATTACK BY FIRE AND GROUND ATTACK FORCED RETREAT OF THREE RANGER COMPANIES AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO GAIN COMMANDING HIGH GROUND IN THAT AREA.

3. KONTUM POLOFF REPORTS AT LEAST SIX INCIDENTS OF ENEMY SHELLING OCCURRED JUNE 28 IN ENVIRONS OF CITY. MOST SERIOUS WAS ON OUTSKIRTS OF MARYLOU REFUGEE CAMP SOON AFTER DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT THEIU, RESULTING IN 4 CIVILIANS KILLED AND 8 WOUNDED. (THIEU HAD ARRIVED IN KONTUM CITY ON MORNING OF JUNE 28 FOR BRIEF VISIT. HE RECEIVED COMPLETE MILITARY BRIEFINGS FROM SECTOR AND DIVISION OFFICERS IN CITY AND THEN DROVE TO MARYLOU CAMP, ABOUT SEVEN KM SOUTH OF CITY, TO HAND OUT LAND TITLES TO REFUGEES. HE DEPARTED KONTUM FOR PHU BON IN EARLY AFTERNOON.)

4. PHU YEN SECTOR OPERATION TO CLEAR ROUTE 7-B BETWEEN TUY HOA VALLEY AND SON HOA DISTRICT TOWN HAS RESULTED IN REMOVAL OF 36 ENEMY MINES. PHU YEN SECTOR COMMAND ALSO REPORTS THAT PORTION OF ROUTE 6-B BETWEEN DONG XUAN DISTRICT TOWN AND XUAN LANH VILLAGE HAS BEEN CLEARED OF ENEMY MINES AND IS OPEN TO FOUR-WHEELED TRAFFIC. ON RAILROAD TRACKS PARALLELING 6-B IN SAME AREA, WRECKING CREW IS MAKING SLOW PROGRESS REMOVING LOCOMOTIVE AND CAR WHICH WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED BY VC MINE LAST WEEK. TRACK CANNOT BE REPAIRED UNTIL ROLLING STOCK IS REMOVED.

5. QUANG DUC ARRO REP REPORTS THAT NO COMMERICAL VEHICLES
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HAVE ARRIVED IN GIA NGHIA FROM SAIGON FOR PAST TWO WEEKS. ENEMY HAS EVIDENTLY CLOSED QL-14 IN PHUOC LONG OR HAS MADE PASSAGE TOO EXPENSIVE TO BE WORTHWHILE.

6. ICCS: ACCORDING TO COL. CAMPBELL, CANADIAN REGION 4 ICCS CHIEF, ICCS WILL NOT RPT NOT CURTAIL ACTIVITY AS A RESULT OF JUNE 26 INCIDENT IN WHICH ICCS HELICOPTER WAS FIRED UPON WHILE MAKING INVESTIGATION IN BINH TUY (BIEN HOA 452 AND NHA TRANG 647), BUT FUTURE INVESTIGATING TEAMS WILL PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO SECURITY. INCIDENT ITSELF IS BEING INVESTIGATED. POLOFF FEARS THAT THE COMBINATION OF GENERAL INSECURITY AND THE CANADIAN DEPARTURE MIGHT PREVENT THE ICCS "AFTER CANADA" FROM RECORDING ACCOUNTS OF VIOLATIONS IN THE FUTURE. NEVERTHELESS, REGIONAL

ICCS HAS SCHEDULED INVESTIGATION OF A BINH THQRN INCIDENT FOR JULY 2; ALSO, ON JUNE 28 CANDEL AND INDODEL REPORTEDLY MADE OBSERVATION AT SITE OF JUNE 26 GROUND ATTACK ON RF CO IN TUYEN DUC.

7. CONTROL OF POPULATION: ARRO REP PLEIKU REPORTS NATIONAL POLICE MAKING SPECIAL EFFORT TO TAKE GROUP PHOTOGRAPH EACH FAMILY IN VILLAGE VICINITY PLEI MRONG. TECHNIQUE NOT USED FOR THREE YEARS OR MORE BUT FORMERLY USED FOR CORDON AND SEARCH OPERATIONS TO HELP IDENTIFY RVNAF DESERTERS OR VC CADRE. CURRENT PURPOSE PROBABLY ALSO RELATES TO DOCUMENTATION OF THE EXTEND OF GVN CONTROL AND POPULATION LOYALTY.

8. CANDIDATES FOR PLEIKU PROVINCE CHIEF POSITION: ARRO REP REPORTS FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION AS CANDIDATES FOR PROVINCE CHIEF PLEIKU UPON DEPARTURE OF INCUMBENT COL. YA BA JULY 9: COL. LUAT, II CORPS SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER; COL. DUNG, COMMANDER OF 2ND ARMORED BRIGADE; LT. COL. NAY HON, DEPUTY PC FOR SECURITY, PHU BON; LT. COL. VO, DEPUTY FOR SECURITY, PLEIKU. LUAT AND DUNG WERE PROPOSED BY MGEN TOAN; NAY HON WAS PROPOSED BY MINISTER EM NAY LUETTE; AND VO WAS PROPOSED BY COL. YA BA BUT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO GEN CAM, 23RD DIV CMDR, AND CONSEQUENTLY IS BEING TRANSFERRED TO DARLAC. (COL. YA BA, AFTER MORE THAN FOUR YEARS IN PLEIKU, IS A CANDIDATE FOR THE UPPER HOUSE ON FONMIN LAM'S "WHITE ELEPHANT" LIST.)

9. BINH THUAN PROVINCE CHIEF WILL STAY ON: BINH THUAN
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PROVINCE CHIEF COL. NGHIA TOLD ARRO REP THAT PRESIDENT THIEU HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ASSIGNING HIM TO A MORE RESPONSIBLE JOB. NGHIA WOULD LIKE TO STAY IN BINH THUAN UNTIL HE RETIRES; HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT REMINDED HIM THAT HIS RETIREMENT APPLICATION HAD NOT YET BEEN APPROVED, BUT SAID THAT FOR THE MOMENT COL. NGHIA WOULD NOT BE TRANSFERRED.

10. PRESIDENT THIEU VISITS MR 2: PRES. THIEU, PRIMIN KHIEM, AND A LARGE ENTOURAGE VISITED NHA TRANG MORNING JUNE 29 FOR CEREMONY AT WHICH THIEU FORMALLY INAUGURATED CITY'S NEW CHO DAM (MARKET). IN BRIEF EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS THIEU STRESSED NEED FOR POLITICAL STRENGTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, OFTEN REPEATING THE LINE, "EITHER OPPOSE COMMUNISM OR DIE." HE ALSO DREW APPLAUSE BY PROMISING THAT GVN TELEVISION WOULD COME TO NHA TRANG SHORTLY. ASIDE FROM OBLIGATORY HANDSHAKES WITH DIGNITARIES AND A FEW MARKET CONCESSIONAIRES DURING HIS TOUR OF NEW FACILITY, THIEU DEVIATED FROM HIS PATH ONLY TO GREET SMALL BUT NOISY AND STRATEGICALLY-PLACED LOCAL DEMOCRACY PARTY CONTINGENT. WE UNDERSTAND PRESIDENT IS WINDING UP A THREE-DAY TOUR OF MR 2 THAT BEGAN IN BINH DINH JUNE 27 AND CONTINUED IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS YESTERDAY. HE IS EXPECTED TO VISIT CAM RANH AFTERNOON JUNE 29.

11. MOST ENTERTAINING MOMENT IN NHA TRANG PROCEEDINGS CAME WHEN "REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LOCAL POPULACE" PRESENTED THIEU WITH A LARGE AND HANDSOME STUFFED TIGER. LOCAL STUDENTS OF ANIMAL SYMBOLISM ARE NOW SOMEWHAT CONFUSED, HOWEVER, SINCE FORMER VICE-PRES. KY DUCKED OUT OF LION'S CLUB INAUGURAL MEETING HERE LAST MONTH WITH EXCUSE THAT MANY OF HIS FRIENDS CALL HIM "TIGER" AND HIS CONTINUED PRESENCE WOULD THEREFORE BE INAPPROPRIATE.

TEARE UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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